

Application No. 10/750,427  
Amendment Dated 3/12/08  
Reply to Office Action of 12/12/07

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**In the Claims:**

1-8. (CANCELED).

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for performing a filling sequence in a contrast media injector system having a fill tube coupling a syringe to a contrast media, the method comprising the steps of:

expelling substantially all air from the fill tube;  
thereafter, filling the syringe at a first fill rate wherein aeration of the contrast media is prevented, said first fill rate being faster than a second fill rate that is a maximum fill rate if air is not previously expelled from the fill tube.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 9 wherein the step of expelling includes the steps of:

drawing a first amount of contrast media into the syringe; and  
expelling the first amount out of the syringe and fill tube.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of expelling includes expelling substantially all air from the syringe.

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12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for changing contrast media containers during a syringe filling sequence, comprising the steps of:

pausing the syringe filling sequence of a syringe when a first contrast container is substantially emptied;

replacing the first contrast container with a second contrast container;

expelling substantially all air from a fill tube coupled between the syringe and the second contrast container; and

thereafter, resuming filling the syringe from the second contrast container at a first fill rate wherein aeration of the contrast media is prevented, said first fill rate being faster than a second fill rate that is a maximum fill rate if air is not previously expelled from the fill tube.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 12 wherein the step of expelling further includes the step of:

expelling a portion of contrast media in the syringe out of the fill tube into the second contrast container.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 12, wherein the step of expelling further includes expelling substantially all air from the syringe.

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15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of expelling is performed by said contrast media injector automatically under the control of control circuitry of the injector.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of filling is performed by said contrast media injector automatically under the control of control circuitry of the injector.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 9, wherein the steps of expelling and filling are performed by said contrast media injector automatically under the control of control circuitry of the injector.

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18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of operation for a contrast media injector system, the method comprising:

    drawing medical fluid into a syringe of a contrast media injector system at a first fill rate;

    after the drawing, determining if expulsion of at least some of the medical fluid from the syringe has occurred; and

    after the determining, filling the syringe, wherein the filling occurs at the first fill rate if the determining results in a determination that at least some of the medical fluid has not been expelled from the syringe, and wherein the filling occurs at a second fill rate that is faster than the first fill rate if the determining results in a determination that at least some of the medical fluid has been expelled from the syringe.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 18, wherein the first fill rate is a rate sufficient to avoid aeration of the medical fluid.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 18, wherein the drawing comprises drawing at least 20 ml of the medical fluid into the syringe.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 18, wherein the drawing comprises drawing medical fluid through a fill tube and into the syringe.

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22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 21, wherein the determining comprises determining if air has been expelled from the syringe and the fill tube after the drawing.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 18, wherein the filling comprises filling the syringe with a preprogrammed volume of the medical fluid.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 18, wherein the drawing, the determining, and the filling are automated and performed in accordance with programming of the contrast media injector system.